

THE POST.

MIDDLEBURG, DECEMBER 23, 1871.

China Sights.

The Chinese officials and men of wealth live in all luxury—dress richly and keep up a host of servants and retainers. But the poor they work for very low prices, from five to ten cents a day, and feed and clothe themselves from these wages. The wealthy are very indolent, and impose a system of servitude upon their employees which is even worse than American slaves in its worst stages could have been. The peasants are quiet, industrious people but seem to have no higher aim in life than to make a comfortable living on their farms and propagate their species. They destroy a great number of female children, hence the male population is greatly in the majority. The laboring class in China male and female, are but beasts of burden; they carry everything that is used in building a great city, or in carrying on the commerce of a great country upon their shoulders, by means of poles and baskets or buckets on each of the poles. The peasant women of China have large and natural feet. Their costume consists of wide pants reaching only to the knee; a loose sack reaching a little below the hips, belted around the waist, and a little white apron half a yard square pinned on plain. They do not wear shoes or stockings; from the knothole legs are bare. They have no fire in winter to warm them as the cold increases they put on clothing until they are an immense size and their heads look like barrels with heads sticking out at the top, walking with bare legs and feet. None of those who work in rice fields in the sun ever wear any covering for the head. The rich and poor all dress in July in the same style, nearly confined in a low knot on the top of the head, and these ornamented with flowers and hair pins or brooches, either silver or brass. The women of China are not tall, but stocky and squarely built, and the working woman very muscular. They will carry with ease two or three hundred pounds on their shoulders. The small faced women are unable to do heavy work, as they cannot walk without a cane or some one to support them. No man is satisfied without her; one with small feet, and unless betrothed to one, when children, by their parents, they will work years to gain means to buy one, and the smaller the feet the higher the price.

A DEAR WIFE.—Fourteen years ago, not a thousand miles from Alliance, Ohio, Rev. J. S. G.—smiled in the "holy bonds of wedlock," a gentleman and lady of that locality. After the ceremony the groom took Mr. G. aside and told him he had barely enough money to get through his bridal tour, and upon his return he would pay him his three dollars, the usual fee; Mr. G. in his laughing way, asked him how many potatoes he would give instead of three dollars. To which he replied, six bushels and will double it every year until paid. Upon this agreement being made the parties separated, and from that day to this neither potato nor money have been received by Mr. G. The gentleman who was married is now a wealthy farmer and should the master insist upon the fulfillment of the contract which was duly witnessed, the farmer would find that he had quite a dear wife. Let us see what she cost.

Comencing with six bushels of potatoes for the first year, twelve for the second and so on doubling for fourteen years, would amount to \$8,149 bushels, and at fifty cents per bushel to \$4,074, the price of a good sized farm. She is a dear wife, and becoming doubly dear to her husband every year. An article so high priced ought to be good. By's take our advice, and pay your marriage fees on sight.

WHICH IS WHICH?—Old Fritz, who takes pigs and cabbage in Napa county, California, appeared before Judge E. as a witness.

Question.—"What is your name?" Answer.—"Well, I call myself Fred, but may-be-so—I don't know—it is Yawcup. You see, Shuge, my mudder had two little boys; one of 'em was me, and one vas my brother, or one vas my brother, and thudder vas me, I don't know which; and I vas shust as old as my brother vas young, and brother vas shust so old as me, I don't know which, and my mudder she don't; and one of us vas named Fred and the thudder Yawcup, or one va named Yawcup and thudder Fred. I don't know which; and one of us got died, but mine mudder she could never tell whether it was me or my brother, yet got died; so Shuge, I don't know whether I is Fred or Yawcup, and mine mudder she don't know."

A young woman in Sacramento, California is threatening to get a divorce on the novel ground of "protracted festivities," she says her husband celebrated his marriage by getting drunk, and has kept up the

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The CHEAPEST of Ladies' Magazines.

BECAUSE IT IS THE BEST!

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COLORED FASHION PLATES have a reputation for exceeding the quality and durability of any other plates in the market.

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